

House Republican Press Release

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Adinolfi Joins House and Senate Republicans in Call for Across-the-Board Spending Cuts to Fix \$300 Million Deficit



*New Capitol Signs, Reams of Paper Waste,
Pointless Legislative Sessions, Local Projects All
Add Up*

HARTFORD – Promising to lead by example in the face of worsening economics for Connecticut families and workers, Representative Al Adinolfi (R-103) joined House and Senate Republicans today in proposing across-the-board spending cuts to eliminate the projected \$300 million budget deficit and highlighted government spending and Capitol projects the state cannot afford.

The legislators cited numerous examples of Capitol projects and budget items - from \$1.7 million for printing, to \$255,000 in new signage and wasteful special legislative sessions. They said Connecticut cannot afford these types of expenditures.

They called for immediate work on the budget with Democrats to come up with slightly less than 2 percent in cuts to the state's \$18 billion budget and not wait for more hearings or studies. They said many other states are cutting spending and Connecticut must do likewise.

Moreover, the Office of Legislative Management has requested a 7.9 percent increase for its operating budget. Republicans today wrote to Senate President Donald Williams and House Speaker James Amann asking them to rescind their request and flat-fund the budget for 2009-11.

"This poor economy has hit everyone in the state hard," said Adinolfi. "If people are tightening their budgets at home, the legislature certainly needs to do so as well. That starts by examining our priorities and making some tough choices about things that we shouldn't be funding under these economic circumstances."

He added, "Raising taxes on Connecticut citizens is not the answer. The legislature is spending too much, and it needs to stop."

Adinolfi noted that other states have called themselves into special session to deal with their budget problems. Governor Rell has made more than \$200 million in recessions.

Mayors and first selectmen are cutting spending across Connecticut, and the legislature must do so as well.

Every state budget office and fiscal entity - Republican, Democrat or non-partisan - agrees that Connecticut faces mounting deficits. Whether the examples cited by Adinolfi and Republicans are symbolic or significant they said their message is clear: spending must be cut.

Some examples offered:

- The special legislative session last Dec. 5 that cost taxpayers \$1,000 per minute and could have been replaced with a technical session at virtually no cost;
- 100 yards of European black marble is being replaced in the Legislative Office Building for \$200,000 even though there is no safety issue;
- \$255,000 worth of new signs are hanging throughout the building;
- Brand new Liquid Crystal Display screens have just been installed in hearing rooms replacing old televisions that Republicans said they never used in the first place;
- The state of Connecticut spends nearly \$300,000 on pagers despite technology that has rendered them obsolete;
- 65 separate local projects for House and Senate Democrats have been doled out by the Senate President and House Speaker for members totaling more than \$2.3 million compared to **zero** Republican projects.

“The projects that have been funded this way are important, but in these times they aren’t a priority,” said Adinolfi. “The legislature needs to stop spending now.”